

Miss Simpson Takes Office; Sets Precedent

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 15 (AP).—Smiling Vivian V. Simpson, champion of female rights, today became Maryland's first woman Secretary of State.

Amid applause from more than 500 men and women, she was sworn in at the State House by Governor Lane and received her commission stamped in gold with the Great Seal of Maryland.

One of the petite brunette's duties in the \$2000-year post will be custodian of the State seal.

Miss Simpson, 46 years old, is an attorney and president of the Montgomery County Bar Association.

Twenty-six years ago, as a student at the University of Maryland, Miss Simpson was ordered expelled for refusing to conform to school discipline.

She was described as a professed "man-hater" and a student who violated rules by making fudge after lights-out.

Fighting back, Miss Simpson went to court for a writ of mandamus, said she sought only the privileges already given to male students and lost the case finally in the State's highest court.

She transferred to George Washington University and in 1927 graduated from the George Washington law school.

Climaxing her subsequent career, Governor Lane appointed her Secretary of State to succeed Bertram L. Boone of Baltimore, who resigned to take a State Department position.

Her office, its routine handled by a corps of assistants, attests the signature of the Governor on all public documents, certifies the results of elections and keeps a record of trademarks, paroles, and appointments by the Governor.